

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of

Annual Assessment of the Status of
Competition in the Market for the
Delivery of Video Programming

MB Docket No. 12-203

**COMMENTS OF
Northampton Community Television**

Northampton Community Television submits these comments in response to the above-captioned Notice of Inquiry (“NOI”), released July 20, 2012, seeking “data, information, and comment on the state of competition in the delivery of video programming.”

Northampton Community Television is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that runs the community media center for the municipality of Northampton, Massachusetts. We are dedicated to providing the base necessities for functioning community media – physical space, staff, up-to-date equipment, local governance, broad multimedia training.

1. Comcast provides three cable channels for use by NCTV.
2. These channels are placed on the lowest tier of cable provided. If residents only have analog television sets they require a digital converter box to receive this basic service.
3. There are more channels carried since June of 2010.
4. Unfortunately our provider does not allow for distribution of our programming schedule on the system’s on-screen program guide. Residents must navigate to our web site to view our

programming schedule, though we can provide all necessary data required for inclusion on an on-screen program guide.

5. We are not in an AT&T U-Verse community.

6. PEG programming has grown in utilization, viewership, relevance, variety, and quality.

We have seen consistent improvements across the board for the last five years. This can be tied directly to a few factors. Firstly, management of the PEG facility moved from control of the cable provider (Comcast) to local independent nonprofit control (NCTV). Second, we are located in a state (Massachusetts) that has largely been able to resist the legislative changes that have decimated community media across the nation during a time when it is most needed to grow. Third we have embraced the concept of our PEG center as a community media center. Modern television is not limited to the parameters which defined it only a short time ago. A modern community media center needs to embrace all forms of multimedia production and support for that should be provided by similar revenues to fund this public good as generated by internet providers and traffic over those same public lines.

Peter Albert Williams

Executive Director

Northampton Community Television

8/24/12